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## MINIMUM WAGE BILL.

JANUARY 14, 1918.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

*Mr. C. C. Craig, House*  
Mr. NOLAN, from the Committee on Labor, submitted the following

### REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 152.]

The Committee on Labor, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 152) introduced by Mr. Nolan to fix the compensation of certain employees of the United States, having considered the same, report thereon with the recommendation that it pass.

The bill as reported by the committee reads as follows:

[H. R. 152, Sixty-fifth Congress, first session.]

A BILL To fix the compensation of certain employees of the United States.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That after the beginning of the first fiscal year following the passage of this act the minimum compensation of any person employed by the United States or by the government of the District of Columbia shall be not less than \$3 per day; or if employed by the hour, not less than  $37\frac{1}{2}$  cents per hour; or if employed by the month, not less than \$90 per month; or if employed by the year, not less than \$1,080 per annum: *Provided*, That persons employed on a monthly or annual salary basis and who regularly perform less than a full day's service shall receive compensation at the rate of not less than  $37\frac{1}{2}$  cents per hour: *Provided further*, That the provisions of this act shall not apply to persons enlisted in the military branches of the Government nor to persons receiving quarters and subsistence in addition to their compensation, nor to the employees in the Philippine Islands, Porto Rico, the Territory of Hawaii, the Territory of Alaska, and the Panama Canal Zone, nor to persons holding appointments as postmasters: *Provided further*, That the provisions of this act shall apply only to those persons who have been continuously in the employ of the Government of the United States or in the employ of the government of the District of Columbia for a period of not less than two years, and who shall have attained the age of twenty years.

SEC. 2. That upon the passage of this act the heads of departments in which are employed persons as defined in section one of this bill shall issue new appointments at the increased rate of compensation herein provided.

Friday, January 11, was set by the committee for hearings on this bill. On that date the following representatives of organizations appeared in favor of the Nolan bill (H. R. 152): H. M. McLarin, president National Federation of Federal Employees; W. F. Gibbons, secretary National Association of Post Office Clerks of the

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United States; E. J. Cantwell, secretary National Association of Letter Carriers; Edward J. Gainor, president National Association of Letter Carriers; Florence Etheridge, vice president National Federation of Federal Employees; Thomas F. Flaherty, secretary-treasurer National Federation of Post Office Clerks; A. Bridges, corresponding secretary Washington Navy Yard Employees; F. H. Ainsworth, president Federal Employees Union of San Francisco; N. P. Alifas, president International Association of Machinists; William C. Webber, president Boilermakers Local No. 450; J. T. Nussear, E. C. McGregor, International Association of Machinists; Frank J. Goodman, International Association of Boilermakers; John S. Beach, president Federal Employees Union No. 2; R. Taylor, Gertrude McCally, Mary E. Ganzhorn, Nora B. James, Lula V. Harris, Beatrice Allpress, Isabel E. Mollen, Gertrude I. Noyes, of the Federal Labor Union, No. 12776, Bureau of Engraving and Printing:

In addition to the foregoing the bill has been unanimously indorsed by the American Federation of Labor at the annual conventions held by that body for the last five years; also by practically every State federation of labor, as well as nearly every central labor union in the country.

This bill has also been indorsed by Grand Army posts and Spanish War veteran camps all over the United States.

The Committee on Labor during the Sixty-fourth Congress held extensive hearings on this bill covering a period of several weeks. The testimony taken at that time is contained in a volume of 423 pages and consists of the statements of committees representing the various organizations interested; also the testimony of individual employees, as well as statistics as to increase in prices and tables showing the annual cost of keeping a family.

If the Committee on Labor of the Sixty-fourth Congress was justified in recommending that the bill do pass, and they took this action unanimously, there is ample justification for the action of the committee in this session in reporting the bill out promptly and asking the House to pass it without delay to relieve the privation and distress prevailing in the homes of Government employees who are paid the lowest salaries.

The committee submits a pamphlet from the Monthly Review (January, 1918), issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, covering increases in prices covering a period of five years, from 1913 to 1917, inclusive:

(From the Monthly Review (January, 1918) of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor.)

#### PRICES AND COST OF LIVING.

##### RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN THE UNITED STATES.

The retail price of food as a whole shows a decrease of 1 per cent in November, 1917, as compared with the month previous. Of the 27 articles for which prices are reported to the Bureau of Labor Statistics 12 decreased in price, 4 remained the same, and 11 articles showed an increase as compared with October.

Pork chops decreased 11 per cent; hens, 5 per cent; sirloin and round steak, 4 per cent each; flour, 3 per cent; and sugar, 2 per cent. Onions increased in price 18 per cent; lard and butter, 4 per cent each; eggs, 5 per cent; potatoes, 3 per cent; rice, 2 per cent; and meal, 1 per cent. Beans, bread, ham, and bacon remained the same price as in October.

The following table shows the course of prices in the United States in October and November, 1917:

*Average money retail prices and relative retail prices of food on Oct. 15 and Nov. 15, 1917.*

[The relative price shows the per cent that the average price on the 15th of each month was of the average price for the year 1916.]

Article.	Unit.	Average money price.		Relative price.	
		Oct. 15, 1917.	Nov. 15, 1917.	Oct. 15, 1917.	Nov. 15, 1917.
Sirloin steak.....	Pound.....	\$0.330	\$0.317	121	116
Round steak.....	do.....	.39	.296	126	121
Rib roast.....	do.....	.257	.250	121	118
Chuck roast.....	do.....	.218	.212	127	123
Plate beef.....	do.....	.165	.163	129	127
Pork chops.....	do.....	.388	.345	171	152
Bacon.....	do.....	.482	.482	168	168
Ham.....	do.....	.426	.426	145	145
Lard.....	do.....	.312	.326	178	176
Hens.....	do.....	.312	.295	132	125
Salmon, canned.....	do.....	.283	.287	140	142
Eggs.....	Dozen.....	.551	.581	147	155
Butter.....	Pound.....	.508	.528	129	134
Cheese.....	do.....	.348	.346	135	134
Milk.....	Quart.....	.127	.128	141	141
Bread.....	16-oz. loaf <sup>1</sup>	.088	.088	135	135
Flour.....	Pound.....	.070	.068	159	155
Corn meal.....	do.....	.070	.071	276	209
Rice.....	do.....	.111	.114	122	125
Potatoes.....	do.....	.031	.032	115	119
Onions.....	do.....	.049	.058	100	118
Beans, navy.....	do.....	.189	.189	172	172
Prunes.....	do.....	.165	.166	123	124
Raisins, seeded.....	do.....	.150	.148	116	115
Sugar.....	do.....	.097	.095	121	119
Coffee.....	do.....	.305	.302	102	101
Tea.....	do.....	.612	.617	112	113
All articles combined.....	.....	.....	.....	138	136

<sup>1</sup> 16 ounces, weight of dough.

In the year from November 15, 1916, to November 15, 1917, prices of food as a whole advanced 23 per cent. Potatoes is the only article that shows a decline in price. Corn meal advanced 87 per cent; bacon 62 per cent; pork chops 48 per cent; beans 39 per cent; salmon 38 per cent; milk 33 per cent; and lard 27 per cent.

Food as a whole was 48 per cent higher on November 15, 1917, than on November 15, 1913, and 46 per cent higher than on November 15, 1914. During this four-year period, corn meal advanced 127 per cent; flour 109 per cent; lard 104 per cent; bacon 77 per cent; sugar 75 per cent; and potatoes 72 per cent. No article declined in price.

Taking November in each of the four years, November, 1915, only shows a decline in price of food as a whole when compared with the same month in a preceding year. For November, 1915, the price of food as a whole was the same as in November, 1913, and was 1 per cent lower than in November, 1914.

A table showing the average and relative retail prices in November of each year from 1913 to 1917 follows.

*Average money retail prices and relative retail prices of food on Nov. 15 of each year, 1913 to 1917, inclusive.*

[The relative price shows the per cent that the average price on Nov. 15 of each year was of the average price for the year 1916.]

Article.	Unit.	Average money price Nov. 15—					Relative price Nov. 15—				
		1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917
Sirloin steak.....	Pound.....	\$0.254	\$0.254	\$0.257	\$0.270	\$0.317	93	93	94	99	116
Round steak.....	do.....	.228	.235	.228	.243	.296	93	96	93	99	121
Rib roast.....	do.....	.197	.204	.199	.210	.250	93	96	94	99	118
Chuck roast.....	do.....	.167	.162	.170	.212	.....	97	94	99	123	.....
Plate beef.....	do.....	.128	.120	.128	.163	.....	100	94	100	127	.....
Pork chops.....	do.....	.216	.218	.209	.234	.345	95	96	92	103	152
Bacon.....	do.....	.273	.281	.273	.298	.482	95	98	95	104	168
Ham.....	do.....	.270	.273	.268	.332	.426	92	93	91	113	145
Lard.....	do.....	.159	.156	.145	.256	.326	91	89	83	146	186
Hens.....	do.....	.205	.205	.203	.238	.295	87	87	86	101	125
Salmon, canned.....	do.....	.....	.....	.198	.208	.287	.....	.....	98	103	142
Eggs.....	Dozen.....	.495	.450	.458	.514	.581	132	120	122	137	155
Butter.....	Pound.....	.386	.394	.366	.437	.528	98	100	93	111	134
Cheese.....	do.....	.....	.....	.232	.292	.346	.....	.....	90	113	134
Milk.....	Quart.....	.091	.090	.089	.096	.128	100	99	98	106	141
Bread.....	16-oz. loaf <sup>1</sup> .....	.....	.057	.062	.075	.088	.....	88	95	115	135
Flour.....	Pound.....	.033	.037	.037	.057	.068	74	83	84	129	155
Corn meal.....	do.....	.031	.033	.032	.038	.071	92	96	95	112	209
Rice.....	do.....	.....	.090	.091	.114	.....	.....	99	100	125	.....
Potatoes.....	do.....	.019	.015	.017	.035	.032	69	54	62	128	119
Onions.....	do.....	.....	.033	.051	.058	.....	.....	68	105	118	.....
Beans, navy.....	do.....	.....	.....	.085	.136	.189	.....	77	124	172	.....
Prunes.....	do.....	.....	.....	.133	.138	.166	.....	99	103	124	.....
Raisins, seeded.....	do.....	.....	.....	.125	.137	.148	.....	97	106	115	.....
Sugar.....	do.....	.054	.062	.065	.086	.095	68	77	81	107	119
Coffee.....	do.....	.....	.....	.299	.299	.302	.....	100	100	101	.....
Tea.....	do.....	.....	.....	.546	.546	.617	.....	100	100	113	.....
All articles combined.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	92	93	92	111	136

<sup>1</sup> 16 ounces, weight of dough.

The two tables which follow give average retail prices for 29 articles in 45 cities.

For 16 cities average prices are shown for November 15, 1913, November 15, 1916 and for October 15 and November 15, 1917.

For 29 cities average prices are given for November 15, 1917. The prices for groceries in Jacksonville, Fla., are not shown, as less than 80 per cent of the grocers of that city sent in their reports to the bureau.



*Average retail prices of the principal articles of food for 16 selected cities for Nov. 15, 1913, 1916, and 1917, and Oct. 15, 1917.*

The average prices shown below are computed from reports sent monthly to the bureau by retail dealers  
As some dealers occasionally fail to report, the number of quotations varies from month to month.]

Article.	Unit.	Atlanta, Ga.				Baltimore, Md.				Boston, Mass.			
		1917				1917				1917			
		Nov. 15, 1913.	Nov. 15, 1916.	Oct. 15, 1917.	Nov. 15, 1917.	Nov. 15, 1913.	Nov. 15, 1916.	Oct. 15, 1917.	Nov. 15, 1917.	Nov. 15, 1913.	Nov. 15, 1916.	Oct. 15, 1917.	Nov. 15, 1917.
Sirloin steak.....	Lb....	\$0.242	\$0.254	\$0.311	\$0.309	\$0.228	\$0.218	\$0.326	\$0.311	\$0.310	\$0.352	\$0.442	\$0.418
Round steak.....	Lb....	.213	.219	.278	.280	.213	.232	.315	.301	.350	.357	.449	.421
Rib roast.....	Lb....	.190	.191	.241	.238	.175	.200	.259	.253	.239	.258	.315	.307
Chuck roast.....	Lb....	.158	.151	.212	.202	.150	.162	.220	.220	.162	.202	.269	.219
Plate beef.....	Lb....	..	.106	.157	.150	..	.138	.169	.175	..	..	..	..
Pork chops.....	Lb....	.250	.245	.399	.363	.182	.208	.371	.333	.224	.249	.409	.353
Bacon, sliced.....	Lb....	.311	.315	.490	.501	.212	.255	.457	.451	.246	.271	.458	.448
Ham, sliced.....	Lb....	.308	.330	.439	.432	.275	.350	.477	.468	.310	.358	.456	.443
Lard.....	Lb....	.153	.214	.319	.328	.150	.200	.326	.327	.158	.221	.309	.329
Lamb.....	Lb....	.202	.244	.316	.321	.180	.240	.333	.313	.205	.251	.345	.336
Hens.....	Lb....	.210	.223	.337	.317	.202	.250	.321	.296	.243	.268	.344	.326
Salmon, canned.....	Lb....	..	.166	.246	.235	..	.170	.254	.255	..	.203	.294	.300
Eggs, strictly fresh.....	Doz....	.400	.433	.482	.501	.459	.488	.519	.580	.606	.669	.660	.737
Eggs, storage.....	Doz....	..	.370	..	.435	..	.331	.388	..	.440	.352	.398	..
Butter.....	Lb....	.398	.443	.551	.551	.384	.446	.538	.539	.382	.428	.524	.517
Cheese.....	Lb....	..	.308	.355	.347	..	.290	.360	.358	..	.275	.328	.326
Milk.....	Qt....	.106	.125	.159	.175	.087	.092	.117	.120	.089	.096	.130	.140
Bread.....	16-oz. l.	..	.076	.091	.090	..	.063	.082	.082	..	.068	.081	.081
Flour.....	Lb....	.035	.053	.072	.071	.031	.059	.070	.068	.036	.064	.075	.075
Corn meal.....	Lb....	.026	.031	.059	.054	.026	.031	.064	.064	.035	.043	.075	.076
Rice.....	Lb....	..	.079	.108	.111	..	.098	.112	.114	..	.099	.115	.118
Potatoes.....	Lb....	.023	.040	.038	.040	.018	.034	.030	.030	.017	.035	.034	.035
Onions.....	Lb....	..	.057	.059	.059	..	.052	.055	.019	..	.057	.056	.058
Beans, navy.....	Lb....	..	.135	.188	.188	..	.146	.187	.190	..	.131	.184	.184
Prunes.....	Lb....	..	.133	.179	.180	..	.130	.165	.173	..	.144	.168	.168
Raisins.....	Lb....	..	.149	.162	.161	..	.128	.146	.146	..	.143	.150	.150
Sugar.....	Lb....	.057	.095	.104	.110	.048	.080	.092	.096	.054	.086	.098	.102
Coffee.....	Lb....	..	.282	.294	.292	..	.235	.277	.281	..	.334	.341	.344
Tea.....	Lb....	..	.617	.796	.784	..	.550	.634	.649	..	.600	.646	.648
		Buffalo, N. Y.				Chicago, Ill.				Cleveland, Ohio.			
		Nov. 15, 1913.	Nov. 15, 1916.	Oct. 15, 1917.	Nov. 15, 1917.	Nov. 15, 1913.	Nov. 15, 1916.	Oct. 15, 1917.	Nov. 15, 1917.	Nov. 15, 1913.	Nov. 15, 1916.	Oct. 15, 1917.	Nov. 15, 1917.
Sirloin steak.....	Lb....	\$0.222	\$0.240	\$0.315	\$0.311	\$0.247	\$0.268	\$0.306	\$0.297	\$0.250	\$0.250	\$0.307	\$0.290
Round steak.....	Lb....	.194	.220	.293	.289	.214	.225	.273	.265	.224	.223	.288	.270
Rib roast.....	Lb....	.164	.182	.247	.243	.195	.219	.247	.245	.186	.198	.232	.226
Chuck roast.....	Lb....	.152	.162	.220	.220	.159	.167	.213	.206	.170	.173	.211	.206
Plate beef.....	Lb....	..	..	.131	.172	..	.131	.165	.162	..	.121	.158	.156
Pork chops.....	Lb....	.198	.226	.388	.349	.193	.212	.358	.312	.216	.228	.387	.331
Bacon, sliced.....	Lb....	.212	.248	.461	.460	.324	.316	.475	.497	.281	.299	.468	.467
Ham, sliced.....	Lb....	.263	.333	.432	.424	.323	.346	.439	.445	.357	.224	.436	.441
Lard.....	Lb....	.142	.203	.306	.315	.150	.201	.299	.309	.163	.228	.318	.332
Lamb.....	Lb....	.156	.192	.289	.276	.193	.220	.314	.282	.181	.212	.306	.288
Hens.....	Lb....	.200	.236	.309	.297	.174	.210	.271	.258	.199	.236	.317	.294
Salmon, canned.....	Lb....	..	.180	.275	.280	..	.213	.300	.301	..	.183	.270	.291
Eggs, strictly fresh.....	Doz....	.485	.600	.551	.593	.398	.271	.469	.496	.500	.560	.570	.605
Eggs, storage.....	Doz....	.306	.358	..	.428	.303	.379	..	.411	.357	.420	..	.431
Butter.....	Lb....	.381	.428	.510	.506	.365	.421	.487	.492	.407	.458	.530	.530
Cheese.....	Lb....	..	.291	.333	.334	..	.296	.368	.374	..	.287	.350	.348
Milk.....	Qt....	.080	.100	.120	.140	.080	.090	.129	.119	.080	.090	.120	.120
Bread.....	16-oz. l.	..	.070	.089	.087	..	.070	.093	.090	..	.069	.089	.059
Flour.....	Lb....	.030	.056	.065	.064	.029	.052	.066	.064	.032	.058	.071	.069
Corn meal.....	Lb....	.026	.032	.070	.074	.029	.038	.071	.069	.030	.037	.073	.076
Rice.....	Lb....	..	.032	.108	.113	..	.094	.103	.111	..	.093	.111	.118
Potatoes.....	Lb....	.018	.034	.031	.032	.017	.035	.028	.027	.020	.038	.032	.033
Onions.....	Lb....	..	.046	.056	.056	..	.050	.048	.045	..	.058	.050	.055
Beans, navy.....	Lb....	..	.138	.182	.196	..	.140	.186	.190	..	.147	.191	.194
Prunes.....	Lb....	..	.135	.156	.166	..	.139	.161	.163	..	.131	.165	.179
Raisins.....	Lb....	..	.120	.137	.140	..	.150	.145	.150	..	.139	.143	.143
Sugar.....	Lb....	.053	.082	.100	.099	.051	.079	.088	.085	.054	.086	.097	.097
Coffee.....	Lb....	..	.286	.293	.295	..	.300	.285	.287	..	.288	.291	.295
Tea.....	Lb....	..	.479	.534	.539	..	.525	.573	.588	..	.475	.566	.556

\* Loaf; 16 ounces, weight of dough.

Whole.

*Average retail prices of the principal articles of food for 16 selected cities for Nov. 15, 1913, 1916, and 1917, and Oct. 15, 1917—Continued.*

Article.	Unit.	Denver, Colo.				Detroit, Mich.				Milwaukee, Wis.			
		Nov. 15, 1913.	Nov. 15, 1916.	1917		Nov. 15, 1913.	Nov. 15, 1916.	1917		Nov. 15, 1913.	Nov. 15, 1916.	1917	
				Oct. 15.	Nov. 15.			Oct. 15.	Nov. 15.			Oct. 15.	Nov. 15.
Sirloin steak.....	Lb.....	\$0.229	\$0.234	\$0.307	\$0.282	\$0.256	\$0.248	\$0.305	\$0.294	\$0.236	\$0.243	\$0.293	\$0.280
Round steak.....	Lb.....	.203	.190	.285	.262	.206	.216	.275	.268	.216	.216	.280	.269
Rib roast.....	Lb.....	.167	.184	.232	.220	.200	.204	.242	.235	.184	.186	.238	.229
Chuck roast.....	Lb.....	.153	.160	.207	.197	.152	.162	.197	.193	.162	.166	.217	.205
Plate beef.....	Lb.....	.....	.105	.144	.138	.....	.121	.158	.154	.....	.121	.160	.152
Pork chops.....	Lb.....	.204	.209	.402	.346	.194	.218	.369	.326	.196	.214	.370	.310
Bacon, sliced.....	Lb.....	.280	.325	.520	.506	.223	.253	.457	.458	.278	.300	.472	.475
Ham, sliced.....	Lb.....	.292	.338	.463	.468	.270	1.227	.436	.420	.282	.300	.436	.430
Lard.....	Lb.....	.160	.213	.329	.344	.164	.208	.314	.333	.160	.214	.315	.324
Lamb.....	Lb.....	.152	.194	.303	.298	.151	.202	.313	.286	.190	.227	.316	.298
Hens.....	Lb.....	.185	.216	.284	.278	.192	.234	.314	.293	.172	.206	.272	.238
Salmon, canned.....	Lb.....	.....	.185	.264	.269	.....	.192	.288	.293	.....	.219	.277	.278
Eggs, strictly fresh.....	Doz.....	.450	.510	.503	.528	.410	.485	.532	.582	.450	.438	.482	.483
Eggs, storage.....	Doz.....	.330	.400	.....	.444	.322	.390	.....	.411	.330	.373	.....	.414
Butter.....	Lb.....	.350	.440	.495	.485	.371	.428	.502	.505	.366	.424	.499	.493
Cheese.....	Lb.....	.....	.306	.352	.351	.....	.282	.344	.342	.....	.306	.369	.344
Milk.....	Qt.....	.084	.083	.116	.120	.090	.100	.120	.120	.070	.080	.110	.110
Bread.....	16 oz. <sup>2</sup>	.....	.076	.089	.089	.....	.073	.084	.082	.....	.075	.089	.088
Flour.....	Lb.....	.025	.049	.057	.057	.031	.057	.068	.066	.031	.058	.069	.064
Corn meal.....	Lb.....	.026	.034	.061	.061	.029	.034	.075	.083	.033	.043	.078	.077
Rice.....	Lb.....	.....	.093	.111	.116	.....	.085	.116	.118	.....	.096	.114	.115
Potatoes.....	Lb.....	.016	.031	.023	.029	.017	.035	.029	.027	.017	.035	.027	.028
Onions.....	Lb.....	.....	.041	.039	.049	.....	.048	.049	.055	.....	.051	.047	.048
Beans, navy.....	Lb.....	.....	.115	.185	.186	.....	.144	.194	.191	.....	.140	.193	.195
Prunes.....	Lb.....	.....	.135	.179	.182	.....	.128	.170	.164	.....	.147	.165	.158
Raisins.....	Lb.....	.....	.146	.144	.143	.....	.124	.140	.136	.....	.138	.148	.147
Sugar.....	Lb.....	.051	.085	.089	.089	.052	.086	.104	.088	.053	.084	.091	.088
Coffee.....	Lb.....	.....	.300	.300	.300	.....	.280	.307	.299	.....	.283	.263	.270
Tea.....	Lb.....	.....	.510	.573	.577	.....	.430	.545	.576	.....	.528	.584	.586
		New York, N. Y.				Philadelphia, Pa.				Pittsburgh, Pa.			
Sirloin steak.....	Lb.....	\$0.259	\$0.274	\$0.356	\$0.326	\$0.305	\$0.322	\$0.392	\$0.374	\$0.273	\$0.283	\$0.356	\$0.345
Round steak.....	Lb.....	.254	.271	.360	.335	.257	.279	.365	.344	.240	.246	.329	.318
Rib roast.....	Lb.....	.213	.226	.298	.270	.215	.231	.291	.283	.217	.223	.274	.265
Chuck roast.....	Lb.....	.160	.171	.236	.218	.180	.195	.252	.237	.173	.177	.241	.231
Plate beef.....	Lb.....	.....	.161	.213	.209	.....	.132	.174	.169	.....	.121	.171	.168
Pork chops.....	Lb.....	.226	.243	.399	.339	.225	.246	.400	.356	.225	.234	.406	.350
Bacon, sliced.....	Lb.....	.256	.272	.464	.459	.209	.299	.467	.469	.301	.321	.483	.494
Ham, sliced.....	Lb.....	1.198	1.224	1.314	1.309	.304	.357	.479	.482	.298	.352	.465	.456
Lard.....	Lb.....	.162	.210	.313	.331	.155	.216	.328	.330	.157	.215	.328	.331
Lamb.....	Lb.....	.151	.192	.284	.265	.188	.236	.331	.311	.203	.241	.363	.342
Hens.....	Lb.....	.211	.255	.323	.295	.231	.273	.344	.322	.238	.289	.378	.338
Salmon, canned.....	Lb.....	.....	.214	.334	.340	.....	.187	.260	.263	.....	.213	.301	.299
Eggs, strictly fresh.....	Doz.....	.561	.554	.627	.647	.508	.524	.548	.593	.463	.464	.528	.553
Eggs, storage.....	Doz.....	.373	.402	.....	.446	.347	.397	.....	.434	.334	.375	.....	.453
Butter.....	Lb.....	.399	.442	.515	.516	.443	.486	.562	.567	.404	.450	.527	.528
Cheese.....	Lb.....	.....	.283	.340	.338	.....	.295	.361	.357	.....	.291	.357	.351
Milk.....	Qt.....	.090	.098	.138	.140	.080	.088	.110	.122	.092	.103	.125	.127
Bread.....	16 oz. <sup>2</sup>	.....	.069	.088	.088	.....	.056	.079	.078	.....	.067	.092	.090
Flour.....	Lb.....	.032	.058	.078	.077	.032	.058	.075	.072	.032	.057	.072	.070
Corn meal.....	Lb.....	.035	.046	.082	.083	.029	.035	.071	.072	.030	.038	.081	.087
Rice.....	Lb.....	.....	.092	.115	.119	.....	.097	.118	.123	.....	.094	.110	.112
Potatoes.....	Lb.....	.023	.040	.038	.036	.023	.040	.038	.038	.020	.035	.032	.033
Onions.....	Lb.....	.....	.059	.059	.060	.....	.055	.056	.054	.....	.053	.052	.053
Beans, navy.....	Lb.....	.....	.141	.185	.187	.....	.133	.185	.184	.....	.142	.188	.195
Prunes.....	Lb.....	.....	.137	.167	.169	.....	.139	.164	.167	.....	.136	.165	.172
Raisins.....	Lb.....	.....	.131	.146	.147	.....	.123	.139	.133	.....	.138	.148	.146
Sugar.....	Lb.....	.049	.080	.097	.100	.050	.080	.094	.096	.057	.087	.101	.105
Coffee.....	Lb.....	.....	.262	.265	.261	.....	.285	.283	.279	.....	.271	.299	.298
Tea.....	Lb.....	.....	.445	.521	.532	.....	.550	.583	.585	.....	.575	.702	.715

<sup>1</sup> Whole

<sup>2</sup> Loaf; 16 ounces, weight of dough.



MINIMUM WAGE BILL.

7

Average retail prices of the principal articles of food for 16 selected cities for Nov. 15, 1913, 1916, and 1917, and Oct. 15, 1917—Continued.

Article.	Unit.	St. Louis, Mo.				San Francisco, Cal.			
		Nov 15, 1913.	Nov. 15, 1916.	1917		Nov. 15, 1913.	Nov. 15, 1916.	1917	
				Oct. 15.	Nov. 15.			Oct. 15.	Nov. 15.
Sirloin steak.....	Lb....	\$0.266	\$0.258	\$0.308	\$0.296	\$0.210	\$0.205	\$0.236	\$0.240
Round steak.....	Lb....	.236	.243	.301	.289	.197	.196	.231	.236
Rib roast.....	Lb....	.201	.203	.256	.249	.213	.207	.232	.234
Chuck roast.....	Lb....	.160	.166	.206	.205	.155	.143	.162	.167
Plate beef.....	Lb....	.....	.128	.166	.167	.....	.133	.157	.162
Pork chops.....	Lb....	.178	.196	.374	.391	.242	.237	.363	.363
Bacon, sliced.....	Lb....	.258	.274	.488	.480	.314	.367	.519	.537
Ham, sliced.....	Lb....	.273	.288	.456	.456	.320	.350	.475	.488
Lard.....	Lb....	.129	.201	.293	.315	.177	.211	.302	.322
Lamb.....	Lb....	.183	.222	.308	.295	.170	.206	.306	.289
Hens.....	Lb....	.165	.200	.275	.248	.248	.278	.315	.334
Salmon, canned.....	Lb....	.....	.187	.284	.285	.....	.179	.219	.250
Eggs, strictly fresh.....	Doz....	.389	.430	.460	.471	.650	.592	.608	.638
Eggs, storage.....	Doz....	.325	.383	.....	.393	.407	.390	.....	.451
Butter.....	Lb....	.381	.446	.526	.522	.404	.413	.545	.501
Cheese.....	Lb....	.....	.373	.369	.353	.....	.238	.316	.324
Milk.....	Qt....	.088	.080	.132	.130	.100	.100	.121	.121
Bread.....	16 oz. <sup>1</sup>	.....	.069	.063	.092	.....	.070	.083	.083
Flour.....	Lb....	.029	.054	.063	.061	.034	.050	.064	.061
Corn meal.....	Lb....	.025	.033	.066	.064	.035	.013	.074	.074
Rice.....	Lb....	.....	.086	.106	.112	.....	.084	.105	.108
Potatoes.....	Lb....	.018	.035	.029	.031	.019	.030	.031	.031
Onions.....	Lb....	.....	.053	.047	.044	.....	.041	.032	.034
Beans, navy.....	Lb....	.....	.141	.192	.187	.....	.123	.177	.174
Prunes.....	Lb....	.....	.144	.173	.170	.....	.124	.152	.147
Raisins.....	Lb....	.....	.156	.167	.168	.....	.127	.143	.132
Sugar.....	Lb....	.051	.081	.089	.088	.054	.082	.082	.081
Coffee.....	Lb....	.....	.242	.283	.281	.....	.317	.303	.305
Tea.....	Lb....	.....	.543	.628	.626	.....	.517	.534	.539
		Seattle, Wash.				Washington, D. C.			
Sirloin steak.....	Lb....	\$0.236	\$0.224	\$0.267	\$0.267	\$0.265	\$0.268	\$0.350	\$0.360
Round steak.....	Lb....	.206	.200	.251	.253	.225	.234	.337	.332
Rib roast.....	Lb....	.200	.186	.225	.221	.210	.214	.278	.277
Chuck roast.....	Lb....	.156	.140	.181	.183	.176	.180	.243	.237
Plate beef.....	Lb....	.....	.109	.153	.154	.....	.139	.191	.184
Pork chops.....	Lb....	.210	.230	.400	.396	.214	.236	.415	.370
Bacon, sliced.....	Lb....	.320	.320	.490	.522	.264	.272	.497	.492
Ham, sliced.....	Lb....	.300	.310	.431	.434	.313	.325	.438	.432
Lard.....	Lb....	.169	.197	.301	.307	.150	.200	.318	.325
Lamb.....	Lb....	.181	.200	.287	.296	.191	.232	.360	.337
Hens.....	Lb....	.242	.218	.271	.283	.213	.248	.325	.311
Salmon, canned.....	Lb....	.....	.188	.277	.288	.....	.172	.236	.269
Eggs, strictly fresh.....	Doz....	.592	.600	.652	.666	.479	.495	.546	.645
Eggs, storage.....	Doz....	.375	.389	.....	.488	.359	.398	.....	.453
Butter.....	Lb....	.408	.437	.546	.542	.403	.464	.534	.534
Cheese.....	Lb....	.....	.244	.312	.308	.....	.282	.351	.354
Milk.....	Qt....	.100	.098	.120	.120	.090	.100	.140	.140
Bread.....	16 oz. <sup>1</sup>	.....	.064	.092	.092	.....	.073	.090	.090
Flour.....	Lb....	.029	.048	.060	.059	.038	.057	.075	.073
Corn meal.....	Lb....	.032	.039	.075	.074	.026	.031	.062	.067
Rice.....	Lb....	.....	.084	.109	.111	.....	.093	.115	.121
Potatoes.....	Lb....	.014	.023	.023	.022	.018	.031	.031	.033
Onions.....	Lb....	.....	.048	.040	.045	.....	.044	.054	.052
Beans, navy.....	Lb....	.....	.131	.190	.187	.....	.139	.201	.201
Prunes.....	Lb....	.....	.133	.146	.144	.....	.146	.178	.177
Raisins.....	Lb....	.....	.131	.145	.134	.....	.132	.154	.150
Sugar.....	Lb....	.061	.088	.089	.088	.051	.081	.094	.096
Coffee.....	Lb....	.....	.326	.316	.311	.....	.281	.281	.286
Tea.....	Lb....	.....	.500	.542	.554	.....	.512	.592	.630

<sup>1</sup> Loaf; 16 ounces, weight of dough.

*Average retail prices of the principal articles of food for 29 cities for Nov. 15, 1917.*

[The average prices shown below are computed from reports sent monthly to the bureau by retail dealers. As some dealers occasionally fail to report, the number of quotations varies from month to month.]

Average retail prices, Nov. 15, 1917.											
Article.	Unit.	Bir- ming- ham, Ala.	Bridge- port, Conn.	Butte, Mont.	Charles- ton, S. C.	Cin- cinnati, Ohio.	Col- umbus, Ohio.	Dallas, Tex.	Fall River, Mass.	Indi- anapol- is, Ind.	Jack- son- ville, Fla.
Sirloin steak.....	Lb.....	\$0.340	\$0.396	\$0.303	\$0.275	\$0.258	\$0.321	\$0.304	\$0.420	\$0.312	\$0.312
Round steak.....	Lb.....	.310	.378	.276	.262	.252	.298	.292	.362	.304	.291
Rib roast.....	Lb.....	.250	.312	.243	.247	.227	.251	.248	.272	.228	.238
Chuck roast.....	Lb.....	.202	.257	.200	.192	.183	.233	.213	.228	.213	.193
Plate beef.....	Lb.....	.163	.165	.137	.150	.153	.178	.177	.....	.162	.157
Pork chops.....	Lb.....	.348	.352	.369	.385	.317	.333	.365	.340	.343	.357
Bacon, sliced.....	Lb.....	.530	.513	.575	.486	.451	.457	.525	.441	.484	.491
Ham, sliced.....	Lb.....	.445	.496	.483	.436	.427	.456	.470	.434	.442	.425
Lard.....	Lb.....	.329	.324	.324	.321	.312	.333	.301	.319	.316	.326
Lamb.....	Lb.....	.325	.295	.313	.344	.278	.317	.325	.330	.250	.312
Hens.....	Lb.....	.286	.283	.314	.349	.298	.300	.260	.324	.260	.312
Salmon, canned.....	Lb.....	.278	.341	.373	.262	.262	.269	.280	.277	.233	(1)
Eggs, strictly fresh.....	Doz.....	.488	.745	.708	.513	.518	.502	.491	.729	.519	(1)
Eggs, storage.....	Doz.....	.450	.467	.540	.439	.453	.447	.438	.465	.413	(1)
Butter.....	Lb.....	.561	.504	.550	.525	.512	.507	.498	.501	.518	(1)
Cheese.....	Lb.....	.341	.343	.345	.341	.359	.340	.358	.328	.380	(1)
Milk.....	Qt.....	.152	.140	.150	.160	.120	.110	.150	.128	.103	.150
Bread.....	16-oz. <sup>1</sup> .....	.094	.093	.105	.094	.080	.087	.087	.085	.084	.090
Flour.....	Lb.....	.071	.073	.075	.077	.072	.067	.066	.077	.069	(1)
Corn meal.....	Lb.....	.050	.087	.081	.068	.068	.066	.074	.080	.065	(1)
Rice.....	Lb.....	.124	.122	.130	.088	.118	.116	.114	.117	.123	(1)
Potatoes.....	Lb.....	.036	.036	.024	.038	.032	.030	.038	.034	.031	(1)
Onions.....	Lb.....	.055	.060	.050	.055	.051	.057	.056	.053	.052	(1)
Beans, navy.....	Lb.....	.194	.188	.190	.172	.185	.192	.181	.181	.203	(1)
Prunes.....	Lb.....	.150	.167	.173	.166	.163	.159	.171	.166	.178	(1)
Raisins.....	Lb.....	.163	.156	.150	.153	.146	.152	.148	.148	.167	(1)
Sugar.....	Lb.....	.104	.100	.101	.098	.094	.099	.097	.105	.099	(1)
Coffee.....	Lb.....	.333	.319	.416	.282	.274	.289	.340	.328	.294	(1)
Tea.....	Lb.....	.739	.629	.782	.630	.700	.716	.808	.506	.833	(1)
		Kan- sas City, Mo.	Little Rock, Ark.	Los An- geles, Cal.	Louis- ville, Ky.	Man- ches- ter, N. H.	Mem- phis, Tenn.	Minne- polis, Minn.	New- ark, N. J.	New Hav- en, Conn.	New Or- leans, La.
Sirloin steak.....	Lb.....	\$0.311	\$0.300	\$0.265	\$0.286	\$0.435	\$0.284	\$0.228	\$0.348	\$0.398	\$0.273
Round steak.....	Lb.....	.286	.273	.240	.268	.398	.268	.213	.352	.365	.238
Rib roast.....	Lb.....	.231	.244	.222	.227	.271	.243	.201	.278	.302	.228
Chuck roast.....	Lb.....	.197	.195	.189	.202	.237	.203	.167	.237	.268	.186
Plate beef.....	Lb.....	.161	.166	.157	.177	.....	.170	.133	.176	.....	.151
Pork chops.....	Lb.....	.333	.359	.368	.335	.322	.346	.305	.344	.336	.360
Bacon, sliced.....	Lb.....	.494	.509	.527	.507	.452	.483	.467	.441	.498	.530
Ham, sliced.....	Lb.....	.440	.415	.522	.439	.417	.432	.433	.324	.500	.450
Lard.....	Lb.....	.338	.340	.309	.329	.332	.324	.318	.332	.332	.314
Lamb.....	Lb.....	.259	.288	.297	.305	.324	.316	.236	.308	.338	.295
Hens.....	Lb.....	.253	.269	.326	.302	.339	.286	.217	.308	.338	.297
Salmon, canned.....	Lb.....	.288	.295	.298	.255	.296	.291	.314	.344	.322	.319
Eggs, strictly fresh.....	Doz.....	.468	.481	.625	.495	.676	.453	.454	.706	.792	.461
Eggs, storage.....	Doz.....	.424	.450	.449	.423	.446	.407	.394	.479	.480	.397
Butter.....	Lb.....	.500	.530	.485	.526	.542	.501	.470	.536	.518	.512
Cheese.....	Lb.....	.350	.374	.342	.362	.335	.332	.323	.354	.336	.348
Milk.....	Qt.....	.123	.165	.120	.123	.120	.150	.102	.140	.128	.136
Bread.....	16-oz. <sup>2</sup> .....	.094	.089	.079	.085	.084	.096	.093	.082	.087	.080
Flour.....	Lb.....	.065	.069	.063	.069	.072	.069	.059	.077	.071	.078
Corn meal.....	Lb.....	.072	.060	.076	.060	.077	.057	.064	.080	.078	.069
Rice.....	Lb.....	.111	.104	.102	.119	.107	.103	.102	.117	.114	.101
Potatoes.....	Lb.....	.032	.035	.020	.033	.033	.031	.026	.037	.034	.042
Onions.....	Lb.....	.051	.053	.037	.045	.053	.046	.043	.060	.054	.052
Beans, navy.....	Lb.....	.193	.187	.173	.201	.187	.195	.193	.182	.191	.173
Prunes.....	Lb.....	.148	.133	.151	.165	.159	.173	.157	.169	.172	.170
Raisins.....	Lb.....	.154	.149	.133	.161	.150	.145	.145	.147	.152	.155
Sugar.....	Lb.....	.099	.091	.094	.102	.101	.102	.091	.100	.108	.096
Coffee.....	Lb.....	.262	.328	.303	.276	.342	.302	.310	.298	.335	.274
Tea.....	Lb.....	.592	.750	.571	.722	.561	.727	.504	.530	.550	.613

<sup>1</sup> Prices not shown, less than 80 per cent of reports from grocers for November, 1917, received by bureau.

<sup>2</sup> Loaf; 16 ounces weight of dough.

*Average retail prices of the principal articles of food for 29 cities for Nov. 15, 1917—Con.*

Article.	Unit.	Average retail prices, Nov. 15, 1917.								
		Omaha, Nebr.	Port- land, Oreg.	Provi- dence, R. I.	Rich- mond, Va.	Roches- ter, N. Y.	St. Paul, Minn.	Salt Lake City, Utah.	Scran- ton, Pa.	Spring- field, Ill.
Sirloin steak.....	Lb....	\$0.300	\$0.254	\$0.512	\$0.328	\$0.293	\$0.270	\$0.277	\$0.332	\$0.320
Round steak.....	Lb....	.285	.244	.418	.306	.282	.239	.256	.299	.305
Rib roast.....	Lb....	.228	.236	.327	.253	.248	.220	.233	.271	.232
Chuck roast.....	Lb....	.200	.182	.289	.235	.232	.189	.195	.225	.218
Plate beef.....	Lb....	.150	.145	.....	.189	.177	.138	.157	.165	.180
Pork chops.....	Lb....	.322	.347	.362	.369	.354	.309	.392	.358	.344
Bacon, sliced.....	Lb....	.481	.513	.474	.479	.453	.452	.511	.476	.485
Ham, sliced.....	Lb....	.446	.455	.506	1.36.0	.427	.438	.432	.429	.435
Lard.....	Lb....	.332	.330	.339	.328	.334	.334	.345	.319	.330
Lamb.....	Lb....	.296	.277	.350	.308	.288	.228	.290	.324	.342
Hens.....	Lb....	.244	.255	.352	.290	.330	.222	.312	.347	.228
Salmon, canned.....	Lb....	.286	.338	.294	.235	.300	.287	.293	.287	.265
Eggs, strictly fresh.	Doz....	.465	.650	.707	.507	.643	.446	.554	.625	.486
Eggs, storage.....	Doz....	.422	.497	.481	.460	.439	.403	.492	.456	.433
Butter.....	Lb....	.497	.548	.536	.550	.517	.471	.542	.507	.524
Cheese.....	Lb....	.349	.317	.340	.355	.343	.334	.339	.325	.377
Milk.....	Qt....	.120	.124	.130	.143	.128	.103	.111	.124	.125
Bread.....	16-oz. <sup>2</sup>	.094	.085	.089	.084	.087	.063	.091	.092	.098
Flour.....	Lb....	.063	.057	.072	.072	.069	.061	.054	.074	.067
Corn meal.....	Lb....	.067	.071	.075	.062	.078	.066	.074	.....	.072
Rice.....	Lb....	.114	.116	.116	.117	.115	.110	.102	.119	.121
Potatoes.....	Lb....	.029	.022	.037	.036	.030	.026	.021	.032	.030
Onions.....	Lb....	.044	.042	.052	.061	.052	.039	.045	.058	.050
Beans, navy.....	Lb....	.180	.163	.185	.211	.198	.201	.194	.190	.211
Prunes.....	Lb....	.168	.138	.176	.158	.180	.163	.156	.167	.175
Raisins.....	Lb....	.160	.135	.145	.148	.150	.144	.146	.147	.168
Sugar.....	Lb....	.092	.088	.099	.101	.101	.094	.092	.100	.094
Coffee.....	Lb....	.309	.325	.339	.280	.295	.321	.350	.318	.300
Tea.....	Lb....	.604	.567	.575	.691	.503	.529	.629	.567	.658

<sup>1</sup> Whole.

<sup>2</sup> Loaf; 16 ounces weight of dough.

#### PRICE CHANGES, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IN THE UNITED STATES.

Figures compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics furnish a comparison of wholesale and retail price changes among a number of important food articles since 1913. In collecting data for the comparison it was found that in some instances slight differences of grade or quality existed between the articles for which wholesale prices were obtainable and those for which retail prices could be secured. It was found impracticable, also, in most instances to obtain both kinds of quotations for the same date. The retail prices shown are uniformly those prevailing on the 15th of the month, while the wholesale prices are for a variable date, usually several days in advance of the 15th. For these reasons exact comparison of retail with wholesale prices can not be made. The figures are believed to be of interest, however, in showing price variations in the retail as compared with the wholesale markets.

In the table which follows the wholesale price is, in each case, the mean of the high and the low quotations on the date selected, as published in leading trade journals, while the retail price is the average of all prices reported directly to the bureau by retailers for the article and city in question. To obtain a better comparison of wholesale with retail prices, the list of articles has been revised to some extent since the last issue of the Monthly Review. The base period has also been shifted to the year 1913 in order to provide a fairer standard for measuring price changes. The initials W. and R. are used to designate wholesale and retail prices, respectively.



*Wholesale and retail prices of important food articles in selected cities.*

[The initials W=wholesale; R=retail.]

Article and city.	Unit.	1913: Average for year.	July.			1917.				
			1914	1915	1916	Jan.	Apr.	July.	Oct.	Nov.
Beef:										
Steer loin ends (hips), Chicago.....W..	Lb..	\$0.168	\$0.175	\$0.160	\$0.205	\$0.200	\$0.200	\$0.190	\$0.235	\$0.235
Sirloin steak, Chicago.....R..	Lb..	.232	.260	.258	.281	.265	.293	.302	.306	.297
Beef:										
Steer rounds, No. 2, Chicago.....W..	Lb..	.131	.145	.143	.145	.120	.155	.170	.190	.180
Round steak, Chicago.....R..	Lb..	.202	.233	.228	.241	.227	.256	.266	.273	.265
Beef:										
Steer ribs, No. 2, Chicago.....W..	Lb..	.157	.165	.145	.175	.160	.210	.200	.230	.190
Rib roast, Chicago.....R..	Lb..	.195	.212	.213	.223	.223	.241	.246	.247	.245
Beef:										
No. 2 loins, city, New York.....W..	Lb..	.158	.183	.170	.200	.180	.190	.190	.275	.220
Sirloin steak, New York.....R..	Lb..	.259	.274	.282	.294	.284	.318	.337	.356	.326
Beef:										
No. 2 rounds, city, New York.....W..	Lb..	.121	.135	.135	.145	.130	.170	.175	.190	.183
Round steak, New York.....R..	Lb..	.249	.270	.271	.289	.275	.315	.337	.360	.335
Beef:										
No. 2 ribs, city, New York.....W..	Lb..	.151	.165	.160	.180	.160	.200	.190	.275	.225
Rib roast, New York.....R..	Lb..	.218	.225	.227	.243	.238	.270	.279	.298	.279
Pork:										
Loins, Chicago.....W..	Lb..	.149	.165	.150	.165	.165	.240	.250	.330	.250
Chops, Chicago.....R..	Lb..	.190	.204	.201	.217	.227	.285	.292	.358	.312
Pork:										
Loins, western, New York.....W..	Lb..	.152	.163	.153	.165	.170	.235	.235	.300	.260
Chops, New York.....R..	Lb..	.217	.230	.217	.239	.248	.319	.326	.399	.339
Bacon:										
Short clear sides, Chicago.....W..	Lb..	.127	.139	.113	.159	.158	.218	.247	.318	.316
Sliced, Chicago.....R..	Lb..	.294	.318	.315	.328	.316	.395	.439	.475	.497
Ham:										
Smoked, Chicago.....W..	Lb..	.166	.175	.163	.190	.188	.243	.243	.283	.283
Smoked, sliced, Chicago.....R..	Lb..	.266	.338	.328	.349	.333	.382	.414	.439	.445
Lard:										
Prime contract, New York.....W..	Lb..	.110	.104	.080	.133	.150	.215	.201	.246	.280
Pure, tub, New York.....R..	Lb..	.160	.156	.151	.168	.213	.263	.274	.313	.331
Lamb:										
Dressed, round, Chicago.....W..	Lb..	.149	.170	.190	.190	.200	.220	.260	.270	.230
Leg of, yearling, Chicago.....R..	Lb..	.198	.219	.208	.231	.232	.263	.287	.314	.282
Poultry:										
Dressed fowls, New York.....W..	Lb..	.182	.188	.175	.215	.220	.265	.248	.285	.235
Dressed hens, New York.....R..	Lb..	.214	.220	.219	.256	.261	.293	.287	.323	.295
Butter:										
Creamery, extra, Chicago.....W..	Lb..	.310	.265	.265	.275	.370	.440	.375	.435	.438
Creamery, extra, Chicago.....R..	Lb..	.362	.312	.322	.335	.438	.484	.432	.487	.492
Butter:										
Creamery, extra, New York.....W..	Lb..	.323	.280	.270	.285	.395	.459	.395	.443	.445
Creamery, extra, New York.....R..	Lb..	.382	.328	.336	.346	.460	.513	.453	.515	.516
Butter:										
Creamery, extra, San Francisco.....W..	Lb..	.317	.245	.265	.255	.355	.390	.385	.460	.435
Creamery, extra, San Francisco.....R..	Lb..	.388	.329	.338	.333	.425	.452	.455	.545	.501
Cheese:										
Whole milk, American twins, Chicago.....W..	Lb..	.142	.133	.145	.145	.218	.223	.216	.246	.228
Full cream, American, Chicago.....R..	Lb..	.....	.....	.229	.242	.321	.327	.339	.368	.374
Cheese:										
Whole milk, State, New York.....W..	Lb..	.154	.144	.146	.151	.220	.245	.238	.255	.225
Full cream, American, New York.....R..	Lb..	.....	.....	.229	.228	.301	.335	.328	.340	.338
Cheese:										
Fancy California flats, San Fran- cisco.....W..	Lb..	.159	.125	.115	.135	.180	.215	.200	.220	.230
Full cream, American, San Fran- cisco.....R..	Lb..	.....	.....	.200	.229	.242	.297	.207	.316	.324
Milk:										
Fresh, Chicago.....W..	Qt..	.038	.036	.037	.036	.045	.054	.047	.074	.070
Fresh, bottled, delivered, Chicago.....R..	Qt..	.080	.080	.080	.081	.100	.100	.100	.129	.119
Milk:										
Fresh, New York.....W..	Qt..	.035	.030	.030	.031	.051	.049	.050	.072	.077
Fresh, bottled, delivered, N. Y.....R..	Qt..	.090	.090	.090	.090	.100	.109	.114	.138	.140
Milk:										
Fresh, San Francisco.....W..	Qt..	.039	.039	.038	.038	.038	.038	.043	.059	.059
Fresh, bottled, delivered, S. F.....R..	Qt..	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	.121	.121
Eggs:										
Fresh, firsts, Chicago.....W..	Doz.	.226	.188	.168	.218	.485	.305	.310	.370	.415
Strictly fresh, Chicago.....R..	Doz.	.292	.261	.248	.296	.525	.376	.406	.469	.496
Eggs:										
Fresh, firsts, New York.....W..	Doz.	.245	.215	.200	.241	.505	.330	.330	.400	.470
Strictly fresh, New York.....R..	Doz.	.397	.333	.325	.372	.667	.421	.477	.627	.647

*Wholesale and retail prices of important food articles in selected cities—Continued.*

Article and city.	Unit.	1913: Average for year.	July.			1917				
			1914	1915	1916	Jan.	Apr.	July.	Oct.	Nov.
Eggs:										
Fresh, extra pullets, S. F.....W..	Doz.	\$0.268	\$0.230	\$0.220	\$0.240	\$0.380	\$0.280	\$0.320	\$0.435	\$0.520
Strictly fresh, San Francisco.....R..	Doz.	.373	.338	.310	.333	.480	.374	.392	.608	.638
Flour:										
Winter patent, Kansas City.....W..	Bbl.	4.012	3.550	6.225	4.750	8.950	11.450	11.150	10.500	10.500
Aristos, Kansas City.....R..	Bbl.	5.923	5.733	7.800	6.700	10.600	13.689	13.680	13.066	12.760
Flour:										
Standard patent, Minneapolis... W..	Bbl.	4.584	4.500	7.025	6.050	9.450	11.025	12.090	10.550	10.200
Pillsbury's Best, Minneapolis.....R..	Bbl.	5.600	5.800	8.200	7.000	10.800	13.200	13.424	11.984	11.456
Flour:										
Fancy patent, St. Louis.....W..	Bbl.	4.181	3.700	5.890	4.925	8.675	11.375	11.375	11.250	11.100
Gold Medal, St. Louis.....R..	Bbl.	6.077	6.000	8.187	6.933	10.587	12.853	13.200	13.100	12.267
Meal, corn:										
Fine, yellow, New York.....W..	Lb..	.014	.014	.017	.019	.027	.031	.040	.049	.049
Fine, yellow, New York.....R..	Lb..	.034	.034	.035	.042	.051	.057	.070	.082	.083
Beans:										
Medium, choice, New York.....W..	Lb..	.040	.040	.058	.098	.108	.130	.154	.138	.....
Navy, white, New York.....R..	Lb..	.....	.....	.081	.113	.149	.162	.188	.185	.187
Potatoes:										
White, good to choice, Chicago....W..	Bu..	.614	1.450	.400	.975	1.750	2.800	2.625	1.133	1.950
White, Chicago.....R..	Bu..	.900	1.640	.700	1.856	2.370	3.455	2.975	1.660	1.623
Rice:										
Head, New Orleans.....W..	Lb..	.050	.054	.049	.046	.048	.049	.071	.077	.078
Head, New Orleans.....R..	Lb..	.....	.....	.075	.074	.074	.088	.101	.100	.101
Sugar:										
Granulated, New York.....W..	Lb..	.043	.042	.059	.075	.066	.081	.074	.082	.082
Granulated, New York.....R..	Lb..	.049	.046	.063	.079	.074	.087	.084	.097	.100

Relative wholesale and retail prices, expressed as percentages of the average money price for 1913, are contained in the table that follows. A few articles included in the preceding table are omitted from this one, owing to lack of satisfactory data for 1913. It will be seen from the table that since the beginning of the present year the retail prices of most of the commodities included in the exhibit have fluctuated at a relatively lower level as compared with their 1913 base than have the wholesale prices. This is particularly noticeable in the case of bacon, lard, dressed lamb, butter, milk, eggs, flour, corn meal, and potatoes. Comparing November prices with the average for 1913, it is seen that only 3 articles of the 28 included in the table show a larger per cent of increase in the retail than in the wholesale price. These are rib roast at Chicago and dressed poultry and granulated sugar at New York. In most of the other months of 1917 the retail prices of these articles were relatively lower than were the wholesale prices.

*Relative wholesale and retail prices of important food articles in selected cities (average for 1913=100).*

[The initials W=wholesale; R=retail.]

Article and city.	1913: Average for year.	July—			1917				
		1914	1915	1916	Jan.	Apr.	July.	Oct.	Nov.
Beef:									
Steer loin ends (hips), Chicago.....W..	100	104	95	122	119	119	113	140	140
Sirloin steak, Chicago.....R..	100	112	111	121	114	126	130	132	128
Beef:									
Steer rounds, No. 2, Chicago.....W..	100	111	109	111	92	118	130	145	137
Round steak, Chicago.....R..	100	115	113	119	112	127	132	135	131
Beef:									
Steer ribs, No. 2, Chicago.....W..	100	105	92	111	102	134	127	146	121
Rib roast, Chicago.....R..	100	109	109	117	114	124	126	127	126
Beef:									
No. 2 loins, city, New York.....W..	100	116	108	127	114	120	120	174	139
Sirloin steak, New York.....R..	100	106	109	114	110	123	130	137	126
Beef:									
No. 2 rounds, city, New York.....W..	100	112	112	120	107	140	145	157	151
Round steak, New York.....R..	100	108	109	116	110	127	135	145	135

*Relative wholesale and retail prices of important food articles in selected cities (average for 1913=100)—Continued.*

Article and city.	1913: Average for year.	July—			1917				
		1914	1915	1916	Jan.	Apr.	July.	Oct.	Nov.
Beef:									
No. 2 ribs, city, New York.....W..	100	109	106	119	106	132	126	182	149
Rib roast, New York.....R..	100	103	104	111	109	124	128	137	128
Pork:									
Loins, Chicago.....W..	100	111	101	111	111	161	168	221	168
Chops, Chicago.....R..	100	107	106	114	119	150	154	188	164
Pork:									
Loins, western, New York.....W..	100	107	101	109	112	155	155	197	171
Chops, New York.....R..	100	106	100	110	114	147	150	184	156
Bacon:									
Short, clear sides, Chicago.....W..	100	109	89	125	124	172	194	250	249
Sliced, Chicago.....R..	100	108	107	112	107	134	149	162	169
Hams:									
Smoked, Chicago.....W..	100	105	98	114	113	146	146	170	170
Smoked, sliced, Chicago.....R..	100	127	123	131	125	144	156	165	167
Lard:									
Prime, contract, New York.....W..	100	95	73	121	145	195	183	224	225
Pure, tub, New York.....R..	100	98	94	105	133	164	171	196	207
Lamb:									
Dressed, round, Chicago.....W..	100	114	128	128	134	148	174	181	154
Leg of, yearling, Chicago.....R..	100	111	105	117	117	133	145	159	142
Poultry:									
Dressed fowls, New York.....W..	100	103	96	118	121	146	136	157	129
Dressed hens, New York.....R..	100	103	102	120	122	137	134	151	138
Butter:									
Creamery, extra, Chicago.....W..	100	85	85	89	119	142	121	140	141
Creamery, extra, Chicago.....R..	100	86	89	93	121	134	119	135	136
Butter:									
Creamery, extra, New York.....W..	100	87	84	88	122	139	122	137	138
Creamery, extra, New York.....R..	100	86	88	91	120	134	119	135	135
Butter:									
Creamery, extra, San Francisco.....W..	100	77	84	80	112	123	121	145	137
Creamery, extra, San Francisco.....R..	100	85	87	86	110	116	117	140	129
Milk:									
Fresh, Chicago.....W..	100	95	97	95	118	142	124	195	184
Fresh, bottled, delivered, Chicago.....R..	100	100	100	101	125	125	125	161	149
Milk:									
Fresh, New York.....W..	100	86	86	89	146	140	143	206	220
Fresh, bottled, delivered, New York.....R..	100	100	100	100	111	121	127	153	156
Milk:									
Fresh, San Francisco.....W..	100	100	97	97	97	97	110	151	151
Fresh, bottled, delivered, San Francisco.....R..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	121	121
Eggs:									
Fresh, firsts, Chicago.....W..	100	83	74	96	215	135	137	164	184
Strictly fresh, Chicago.....R..	100	89	85	101	180	129	139	161	170
Eggs:									
Fresh, firsts, New York.....W..	100	86	80	97	203	133	141	161	189
Strictly fresh, New York.....R..	100	89	82	94	168	107	120	158	163
Eggs:									
Fresh, extra pullets, San Francisco.....W..	100	86	82	90	142	105	119	162	194
Strictly fresh, San Francisco.....R..	100	91	83	89	129	100	105	163	171
Flour:									
Winter patent, Kansas City.....W..	100	89	155	118	223	285	278	262	262
Aristos, Kansas City.....R..	100	97	132	113	179	231	231	221	215
Flour:									
Standard patent, Minneapolis.....W..	100	98	153	132	206	241	262	230	223
Pillsbury's Best, Minneapolis.....R..	100	104	146	125	193	236	240	214	205
Flour:									
Fancy patent, St. Louis.....W..	100	88	139	118	207	272	272	269	265
Gold Medal, St. Louis.....R..	100	99	135	114	174	212	217	216	202
Meal, corn:									
Fine, yellow, New York.....W..	100	100	121	136	193	221	286	350	350
Fine, yellow, New York.....R..	100	100	103	124	150	168	206	241	244
Potatoes:									
White, good to choice, Chicago.....W..	100	236	65	159	285	456	428	185	318
White, Chicago.....R..	100	182	78	151	263	384	331	184	180
Sugar:									
Granulated, New York.....W..	100	98	137	174	153	188	172	191	191
Granulated, New York.....R..	100	94	129	161	151	178	171	198	204

How any person could defend the salaries paid in the lower grades, or hesitate about voting for a minimum wage of \$3 per day after reading these Government statistics is beyond comprehension.



In addition, the following price list is submitted. The concern submitting these prices caters to the needs of the poorer paid employees of the Government in the District of Columbia. There is no place where they can purchase cheaper, and this list of commodities covers the bare necessities:

The following price list gives some idea of the increased cost of living:

*Comparison of retail prices of foods during December, 1914; December, 1915; December, 1917.*

Articles.	December, 1914.	December, 1915.	December, 1917.	Articles.	December, 1914.	December, 1915.	December, 1917.
<b>GROCERIES.</b>	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>	<b>BEEF—continued.</b>	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>	<i>Cents.</i>
Sugar, granulated, pound.	5	6	9½	Hamburg steak, pound ..	14	12½	22
Flour, Gold Medal, pound.	4	4	6½	Beef liver .....	8	8	1
Milk, condensed, can. ....	10	10	19	<b>PORK.</b>			
Milk, evaporated, tall can. ....	7½	9	15	Fresh hams .....	16	15	32
Milk, evaporated, small can. ....	3½	4½	8	Fresh shoulders .....	14	12½	30
Tomatoes, standard, 2½'s, can. ....	7	8	16	Fresh pork chops, lean ..	16	14	34
Corn, standard, 2½'s, can. ....	7	7	14	Fresh pork chops, loin ..	18	18	38
Peas, E. J. ....	8	7	12	Fresh pork roast, lean. ....	16	13	32
Baked beans, Campbell's.	9	9	18	Fresh pork roast, center. .	18	16	35
Corn meal, pound. ....	3	4	6	Corned shoulders .....	14	12½	26
Hominy, pound. ....	3	4	8	Corned hams .....	16	15	32
Rice, best, pound. ....	9	8	12	Smoked hams, whole .....	16	15	34
Oatmeal, pound. ....	5	4	8	Smoked hams, sliced .....	25	26	48
Macaroni and spaghetti, bulk, pound. ....	8	8	13	Smoked shoulders .....	14	12	27
Prunes, small, pound. ....	5	5	10	Smoked bacon, sliced .....	24	23	44
Salmon, red Alaska, can. ....	15	15	22	Smoked sausage .....	12½	15	27
Soups, can. ....	8	9	12	Lard, pure, pound. ....	12½	11	30
Navy beans, best, pound. ....	6	8	18	Lard, compound, pound. .	10	10	26
Lima beans, dried, pound. ....	8	8	12	<b>BUTTER, EGGS, ETC.</b>			
Catsup, bottle. ....	9	9	22	Butterine (oleo) .....	22	22	30
Sirup, can. ....	10	10	15	Butter, first grade, pound.	37	33	55
Corn flakes (Quaker) package. ....	5	7	8	Eggs, dozen .....	32	28	42
Split peas, pound. ....	5	8	16	Cheese (cream) .....	20	22	32
Scotch peas, pound. ....	6	7	12	<b>VEGETABLES.</b>			
Black-eye peas, pound. ....	4	6	13	Potatoes, peck .....	15	23	38
<b>BEEF.</b>				Kale, peck .....	10	12	40
Rib roast, pound. ....	18	18	27	Spinach, peck .....	15	15	70
Chuck roast, pound. ....	16	14	24	Onions, yellow, pound. ....	2	2	4
Plate (soup meat) .....	12	12	18	Lettuce, head .....	5	5	10
Porterhouse steak, pound.	24	24	35	Sweet potatoes, peck .....	35	17	80
Sirloin steak, pound. ....	22	22	32	Cabbage, new, pound. ....	½	1	4
Round steak, pound. ....	20	18	32	Bread, pound. ....	4	4	7
Chuck steak, pound. ....	18	14	24	<b>Total of items, 61...</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>1,434</b>

Per cent.

Average increase on all items shown on this list from December, 1914, to December, 1917..... 86.5  
Average increase on all items shown on this list from December, 1915, to December, 1917..... 61.1

About one-half (or 50 per cent) of the pay check is spent for food, which has advanced 86½ per cent in three years.

Assuming that all other items in the family budget have remained stationary in price, it would require pay increase of 43 per cent to break even, as against the cost of living in 1914.

What has happened to the cost of coal, shoes, clothing, and about everything else is only too well known.

Conservatively figured, the cost of living has advanced in the past three years about 75 per cent.

Were it not for the wise and energetic work of the United States Food Administration many of these prices would now be very much higher than they are. This is particularly true of flour, bread, and sugar.

OLD DUTCH MARKET.

Most of the employees benefited by the terms of this bill work for the Government in the larger cities of this country and are just as hard hit in the matter of the increase in cost of living as those employees who live in the District of Columbia, and the table submitted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics proves this contention.

Two years ago Prof. Keen, of the University of Washington, a national authority and student of economics, conducted extensive investigations and estimated that it cost \$840 a year for absolute necessities for a family consisting of mother, father, and three children. If this was a fair estimate two years ago, what must it be now, and surely the Government will not begrudge its employees \$3 per day at this time when we consider the difference in cost of living to-day as compared to 1915, when Prof. Keen made his investigations? The Federal Government in dealing with the question of wages in the shipyards along the Pacific coast through the United States Shipping Board and wage-adjustment board appointed to represent both the Navy Department and the Shipping Board, has allowed increases in wages to the extent of about 50 per cent over the 1915 scale, and in the agreement drawn up regarding the settlement of wages it provides for a revision every six months to meet the increased cost of living. If this is the fair and just way of treating the mechanical forces employed in the navy and shipping yards, why should it not apply to all Government employees, and particularly those receiving the lowest salaries?

During the hearings held by the Committee on Labor of the Sixty-fourth Congress testimony was introduced to show that thousands of employees in the lower grades were working for salaries fixed in 1854, and these underpaid employees have had no consideration since that time in the matter of increases except the 10 per cent provided in the appropriation bills for the fiscal year of 1918. It is this class of employees that this bill will benefit. They are mostly in need of it, and it is high time that the Government would set a basic wage rate as the minimum below which none shall be employed.

After the bill was reported to the House in the Sixty-fourth Congress a copy was submitted to all of the executive departments and independent bureaus of the Government, asking for an estimate of the probable cost to the Government of this legislation. Some of these estimates are high and are based on estimates granting the \$3 per day to part-time employees, such as charwomen, etc. A liberal estimate would be about \$22,000,000 up to and including the fiscal year ending June 30, 1916. Since that time these employees have received a 10 per cent increase in wages, which would reduce the cost over \$2,000,000. They undoubtedly will also receive an additional increase in the annual appropriation bills for the fiscal year 1919, which must also be deducted from the cost of this measure; so, after all, the cost will be considerably under \$20,000,000 at a time when this country is spending billions of dollars annually.

The following is the estimate as received from the various executive departments and independent bureaus. If time permits, your committee will be glad to furnish revised estimates as submitted by the departments up to date.

*Minimum wage bill—Estimated annual increase in appropriations.*

Department.	Number of persons affected.	Increase in appropriations.
White House.....	7	\$1,920
State Department.....	56	14,600
Treasury Department.....	11,411	3,745,216
War Department <sup>1</sup> .....	19,100	8,700,000
Department of Justice.....	796	158,174
Post Office Department:		
Departmental.....	468	
Postal Service.....	11,000	
Navy Department (except Mare Island Navy Yard).....	11,468	4,887,505
Interior Department <sup>1</sup> .....	8,728	2,439,554
Department of Agriculture.....	4,904	2,191,278
Department of Commerce <sup>1</sup> .....	2,447	602,577
Department of Labor.....	707	—269,226
	537	18,144
Total in departmental service.....	60,161	23,118,194
Miscellaneous establishments:		
Smithsonian Institution.....	301	108,845
Botanic Garden.....	30	10,463
Civil Service Commission.....	41	8,120
Federal Trade Commission.....	56	16,800
Government Printing Office.....	1,660	432,484
Panama Canal (Washington only).....	40	7,420
Interstate Commerce Commission.....	180	52,290
Alaskan Engineer Commission.....	5	1,080
Total United States Government employees.....	62,474	23,755,696
District of Columbia employees.....	3,812	1,248,510
Grand total.....	66,286	25,004,206
Add Mare Island Navy Yard.....	460	69,836
	66,746	25,074,042

## RECAPITULATION OF TOTAL ESTIMATES.

Executive departments, all branches.....	60,161	\$23,118,194
Miscellaneous establishments, commissions, Government Printing Office, etc.....	2,313	637,502
Total United States Government employees.....	62,474	23,755,696
District of Columbia employees.....	3,812	1,248,510
Grand total.....	66,286	25,004,206

<sup>1</sup> Subject to some modifications on account of the inclusion of part-time employees, such as charwomen, etc.

For years efforts have been made to regulate child labor, and it was only recently that this House passed a child-labor bill. That measure affects the great industries of this country; it removes the long existing practice of exploiting the child of tender years in the factories, mines, and workshops of our Nation. The Members of this House believed that those children should be in school and should have the opportunity to build up their minds and bodies under healthful conditions. Is it not equally our duty toward the low-paid Government employee to see that he has a sufficient wage to enable him to bring up his children under decent and healthful conditions of mind and body?

This measure will foster true Americanism and is one of the few sound measures of preparedness that the Sixty-fourth Congress has had placed before it.

There may be some who will say that \$3 per day is too high a rate for the men and women employed by the Government. But would they like to labor for or try to raise a family and live on that or less? Wages of the unskilled laborers all over the country have been



advancing, and they are not far from this rate. Strikes and walk-outs are taking place among the unorganized unskilled workers all over the country for advances in wages to meet increased prices, and this will continue until the low-paid workers in industry are given greater consideration.

The underpaid Government employees are mostly unorganized, but even where they are organized they do not strike to have their grievances adjusted. They depend upon the Government or Congress to treat them fairly; and here is our opportunity, though long delayed, to make the Government of the United States the model employer.

In striking contrast with this Government's treatment of its employees is that of Denmark, as shown in the following extract from our consul general, E. D. Winslow, at Copenhagen:

[Extract from report of Consul General E. D. Winslow, Copenhagen, Denmark, Feb. 4, 1916. Printed in Supplement to Commerce Reports No. 4a, Mar. 29, 1916.]

DENMARK.

As the hardships of the war fell most heavily on those having fixed incomes and salaries, the Government has increased the salaries of its employees to meet the higher cost of living.

The printed record of the hearings before the subcommittee contain a number of heartrending stories of Government employees who have worked in different departments for a number of years. They tell of their struggle for existence; how the family has had to depend upon neighbors and others for charity, and in some instances were not able to purchase any new clothing for a period covering seven or eight years; and others testified that they had not entered a moving-picture show or other place of amusement in four years.

Statements were made by individuals and those representing organizations of employees of conditions in the Government service, where employees were compelled to work overtime without extra compensation; also, complaints about favoritism shown in the matter of promotions, where length of service did not receive consideration; of misrepresentation by correspondence schools and others of the advantages afforded the Government employee. But your committee could not consider these complaints, as the bill before it pertained only to the question of salaries, and therefore confined itself to the subject matter of the bill.

It is the belief of your committee that this is the first time in the history of this Government that the true conditions as affecting the cost of living of its low-salaried employees has ever been brought to the attention of any committee of Congress and so thoroughly investigated as has been the case in this instance.

The passage of this bill will have a tendency to bring into the Government service the very highest type of young men and young women to fill the vacancies in the lower grades and will give the Government the first choice in the labor market as against private employers, thus tending to make the Government service highly efficient, for, after all, well-paid workers do their work efficiently and economically. Cheap work is always poor work, and with the right standard set the Government will profit by stimulating interest on the part of its employees.

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